

university to help those businesses prosper and they've got documentation which shows that they were very successful. So that was a very unusual situation to be in, of anger because they went ahead with the program, but pleasure that the program was successful and so our decision last fall was not to put money back in but, in fact, to make it clear that they were authorized to establish the program, so that's not an issue this time. The program is there, it has been given our blessing. The problem is it is not funded fully or adequately as it should be and so we're here to argue, I think Senator Morehead and I, to put the money back in because it has proven itself, it has been successful, it's one of the weaknesses we have in the state and that weakness has been strengthened. We know the virtues of economic development, that the money you spend there is money returned manyfold to the state and so it is a wise investment for us to put this money back into the Department of Economic Development budget for a program that is very worthy and the documentation is clear on that. So I'd ask your support for the Morehead amendment and support for the Technical Assistance Center.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Goodrich, please, on the Morehead amendment.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support Senator Morehead's motion, and I do this for a couple of reasons. Number one, this is not a local issue. It is not a Lincoln issue, it is not an Omaha issue. It is all over the state. And the purpose behind it is to give the small businesses the assistance they need to keep going and to be the tax paying source that we know them to be. Now it is like planting corn or wheat. You plant a kernel of corn and you get a whole ear of corn. This is the very concept that we are dealing with right now. In other words, let's give these small businesses the need...the necessary tool, the assistance that they need to keep going. It is a very small price to pay for the dividends that it will yield in the long-run. I would wholeheartedly urge this body to go ahead and adopt this amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Morehead, please.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Are there other speakers, Mr. President?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes.